

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1 9 3 8



ROTHERWICK.

June 1939.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

A

I beg to present my report for the year 1938:-

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres).....	74,788
Population (estimated).....	14,720
Number of inhabited houses.....	4,017
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£387
Rateable value.....	£88,839.

The District is entirely residential and agricultural, and the amount of unemployment is very small.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Legitimate	Total	Male	Female	
		185	97	88	
Live Births					Birth Rate 12.5
	Illegitimate	10	5	5	
Still Births.....		7	3	4	Rate per 1,000
					Total Births 36
Deaths.....		160	79	81	Death Rate
					(Corrected) 9.1

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis - 1. Other puerperal causes 1.

Death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births - 45.6

There was one death from Measles, none from Whooping Cough and none from Diarrhoea.

As usual, heart and arterial diseases provided the principle causes of death (51). Cancer caused 26 deaths, influenza 4, tuberculosis 4. There was one suicide and 4 other deaths due to violence.

B

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

(a) The Medical Officer of Health is also Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health of the adjoining Rural District of Hartley Wintney. He does not engage in private practice.

(b) The Sanitary Inspector is a whole time officer. He holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board, the Royal Sanitary Institute's certificate for Heat and Other Foods and Building Construction certificates.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) Water. The Mid-Wessex Water Company have extended their mains to the village of Sherborne St. John. In time their mains will cover the whole north eastern half of the District. In the Parish of Basing, new houses on the Byfleet Estate are, in nearly all cases, supplied from Company's mains.

(2) Sewers. In view of the extension of the Water Company's mains in the Parishes of Basing and Sherborne St. John, the problem of sewage disposal in both these villages is bound to become acute sooner or later. Conditions in these two villages are very similar, and difficult on account of their low lying situation.

A firm of engineers investigated the matter, and schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal were prepared, but are at the present not being proceeded with.

(3) Scavenging. The collection of indestructible house refuse is carried out in the Parishes of Basing, Newnham, Bramley, Sherfield, Wootton St. Lawrence, Sherborne St. John, North Waltham, Monk Sherborne, Mortimer West End, Preston Candover, Stratfield Turgis, Pamber, Dummer and Steventon. The work is done by contract and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. The scheme meets a real need and is appreciated by householders. The provision of proper dustbins is becoming general, although not yet universal.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.  
NUMBER & NATURE OF INSPECTIONS.

Public Health Inspections.....	68
Public Health Re-inspections.....	7
Housing Inspections.....	105
Housing Re-inspections.....	362
Cowsheds & Dairies.....	28
Bakehouses.....	8
Petroleum.....	21
Slaughterhouses & Butcher's Shops.....	120
Drainage.....	298
Water.....	73
Disinfections.....	23
Refuse.....	26
Miscellaneous.....	184
Housing Act 1935/36.....	181
Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.....	427
Factories & Workshops.....	9
Schools.....	1
Tents, Vans & Sheds.....	6
Rats & Mice Destruction Act.....	3

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1,950

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Swimming Baths. There is one privately owned swimming bath, open to the public, at Basing. It is fed by the River Loddon, is open to the air, and the water is untreated.

Schools. The sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools in the area is for the most part satisfactory. My position as Assistant School Medical Officer facilitates dealing with outbreaks of infectious disease.



D

HOUSING.

(1) Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected	105
(b) Number of Inspections made..... (all recorded under Regulations 1925)	362
(c) Number of houses found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation.....	12
(d) Number of houses exclusive of (c) found not in all respects reasonably fit.....	50

(2) Remedy of Defects.


(a) Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action.....	46
(b) Housing (Rural Workers) Acts included in above.....	22

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Secs.9, 10 & 16, Housing Act 1936.	
Number of Notices served.....	0
Number of Houses rendered fit.....	0
(1) By Owners.....	0
(2) By Local Authority on default of owners..	0
(b) Public Health Acts.....	0
(c) Secs.11 & 31, Housing Act 1936.	
Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made.....	7
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.....	11
Closing Orders.....	7

(4) Housing Act 1936 - Overcrowding.

(a) Number of houses overcrowded at end of the year.....	56
Number of families dwelling therein.....	56
Number of persons dwelling therein.....	324
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	0
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	12



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The Council now own 74 houses - 10 at Old Basing, 14 at Bramley, 6 at Cliddesden, 4 at Ellisfield, 2 at Axford, 8 at Upton Grey, 22 at North Waltham, 4 at Pack Lane, Oakley and 4 at Wootton St. Lawrence (2 at Newfound and 2 at Charter Ley.)

The foregoing statistics show that considerable housing activity continues.

There is still a large amount of unsatisfactory housing conditions, and there is an increasing demand for convenience and amenity in working class houses. It is found that many of the houses built during the last 20 years are failing rather seriously owing to indifferent materials and workmanship, and this will become more noticeable as time goes on. The recent adoption by the Council of Building Byelaws may be expected to cause some improvement in the quality of new houses.

Although every effort has been made to encourage the employment by owners of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, and although the result during 1938 (22 houses re-conditioned) is better than any previous year, it is rather disappointing that more advantage is not taken of this Act, which is capable of great benefit to the agricultural section of the community, and to the preservation of Rural England.

The most important factor in hindering the improvement of housing in rural districts is financial depression as affecting agriculture and the landowner.

#### Camping Sites.

One licence was approved by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. In this District there are, as a rule, no more than a few isolated parties of campers, and hitherto no problem has arisen on their account.



E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat and Other Foods.

Carcases inspected and condemned,

	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed	31	87	360
Number Inspected	30	87	346
All diseases except tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	4	6lb.pork sausages
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	20%	5%	--
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0	0	0

Licenced Slaughtermen.

There are 14 slaughtermen in the area. These are licenced under the 1933 Slaughter of Animals Act, after satisfying the Authority that they are capable slaughtermen.

Slaughterhouses.

There are two licenced slaughterhouses in the area at Preston Candover and Sherborne St.John.



F

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	<u>Notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to</u> <u>Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever.....	3	2	0
Diphtheria.....	5	2	0
Pneumonia.....	9	0	9
Dysentery.....	3	0	0
Erysipelas.....	6	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	3	0	Vision not impaired
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	1	1	0
Tuberculosis.....	(Males 6. Ages 21,29,34,39,45,53.		
Respiratory 12	(Females 6. Ages 14,25,28,30,38,43		
" Other Forms 2	(Males 2. Ages 14,19.		
	(Females 0.		
" Deaths (all ages)			
Respiratory 3	(Males 0. Females 3.		
Other Forms 0			

From the above figures it will be seen that the amount of infectious disease was again considerably less than the average of recent years.

Diphtheria Immunisation. During the year the number of infants who received treatment was 31; approximately 12% of the one-year old children. The scheme has been extended to include children up to 5 years old.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

MARK AVENT.

Medical Officer of Health.





